

**AFRICA INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND
GOVERNANCE**© OIRC Journals, 2018
www.oircjournals.orgISSN: 2518 -0827 (**Online Publication**)**SERVICE PROVIDERS' CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF STREET
CHILDREN IN ELDORET TOWN, KENYA****CARREN MORANGI ONWONG'A**

Department of Children Services, Nairobi, Kenya, P.O Box - 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

ARTICLE INFO**Article History:***Received 28th January, 2018**Received in revised edition 8th Feb, 2018**Accepted 14th February, 2018**Published online 14th February, 2018***Keywords:** *Service Providers, Challenges, Street Children, Kenya***ABSTRACT**

In the recent decades, children service providers have struggled to assist street children to come out of their negative situations on the streets due to a myriad of challenges. In Kenya, street children are considered illegal and discriminated against in their attempts to access services and treated with violence and contempt by state authorities and other service providers. This paper examines the challenges faced by service providers in addressing the needs of street children. A descriptive survey research design was conducted among 45 street children between the

ages 8 to 16 years who were available during the time of the study at different bases in Eldoret town. Study findings show that there were several service providers identified by the street children who included NGOs, FBOs, Business Community and Good Samaritans. However, some of the services provided by the business community and Good Samaritans were identified, by Social Workers, as a factor that led to more children coming to the streets of Eldoret town. Street children revealed that they needed to be more involved in informing service providers on what they would want to be assisted with. It was also clear that street children would want to participate in long-term initiatives which were sustainable and would assist them to be self-reliant in the long-run. For instance, they wanted trainings on how to participate in economic activities so that they could be more self-reliant and disengage from dependency and be out of the streets. The study recommends that a sector-wide training approach for service providers involved in dealing with street children at all levels be developed, by the Government in collaboration with stakeholders to provide standard and holistic services to street children in the country.

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

Introduction

Globally, millions of street children live on the streets where they are deprived of social, economic, education and health opportunities for their survival. In the current state of affairs the exact number of street children is impossible to quantify but the figure almost certainly runs into tens of millions across the world. It is likely that the numbers are increasing as the global population grows and as urbanization continues apace (UNICEF, 2005). The exact number of street children worldwide has often been projected differently by various bodies and national governments pointing to the notion of uncoordinated efforts towards the phenomenon or otherwise to the varied definitions of street children that exist. 1989, UNICEF estimated 100 million children were growing up on urban streets around the world (Campos et al., 1994).

In the recent decades, children service providers have struggled to assist street children to come out of their negative situations on the streets due to a myriad of challenges. In Kenya, street children are considered illegal and discriminated against in their attempts to access services and treated with violence and contempt by state authorities and other service providers.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the primary function of States is to provide protection to children, especially for the most vulnerable. However, governments of countries where the problem is most acute have been unable to give it the attention it deserves, and have thus contributed to its persistence. Despite proliferation of soft legislation aimed at the protection of human rights for street children. It is important to recognise that these

instruments are used as political documents and that their implementation depends on the willingness of government to adhere to them. Street children thus continue to face discrimination and are not involved in community participation as they are viewed as working against the social and political order of the day. Therefore there is a need to investigate and examine the social and political factors that continue to deny street children the enjoyment of the four basic rights as envisioned in the UNCRC; right to development, right to survival, right to participation and right to protection.

In recent times, there has been a proliferation of soft laws aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights for street children. However, it is important to recognise that these documents are political documents and are not legally binding, because their implementation depends on the political will from governments. Despite the ratification of international conventions and treaties on the rights of children, governments have failed in their implementation by citing lack of sufficient economic resources. For instance there is concern over inadequate resources (financial and human) allocated for the effective functioning of the Department of Children Services (CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya & The Consortium for Children Services, 2004). The result is that the human rights of street children are denied given the many children who are being abused by their parents or guardians. Secondly, street children are not being protected from economic and sexual exploitation while on the street. Interventions targeting street children have been well documented in relevant literature in Africa and around the world.

Several approaches have been adopted by interventionists in addressing the plight of the

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

street children all over the world, including; charity, integration, rehabilitation and community based. Charity approach aims at giving gifts to the children, thus temporarily alleviating their basic needs. However, charity approach does not help the children to become self-reliant, but instead makes the children more dependent upon the giver/well-wishers. Thus poverty remains rampant despite charitable support. This study will discuss these interventions from the perspective of both the government and non-governmental interventions with the aim of establishing the responsiveness of current approaches in their quest to address the issues of street children.

In Kenya, street children are considered to be illegal, discriminated against in their attempts to access services and treated with violence and contempt by state authorities and members of the public. This legal status results in children in street situations being systematically discriminated against as though they are breaking the law. Sexual exploitation is a common experience amongst street. In 1991, by Presidential decree, the Government of Kenya established the District Children's Advisory Committees (AACs), in each district, to enhance involvement of the community, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), private sector (business community), line ministries, Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the administration of matters relating to children. By then, only the Department of children's services under the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage (MOHA & NH) was running public supportive and preventive programmes for the benefit of actual and potential street children. Although most of the country's local authorities (municipalities and county councils) were approved under the Children and Young Persons CAP 141 which was to manage both

types of programmes, however, none mounted a supportive programme, the CAP 141 Act was repealed in the 2001.

These interventions were, primarily, based on the rehabilitation and training of street children and were based on the delinquent nature of 6-18 year olds of whom street children were a majority. The programme was organised into two types of institutions namely, Approved Schools now known as Rehabilitation Schools and Juvenile Remand Homes now known as Children's Remand Homes, under the Children's Act 2001. Approved Schools on the other hand were custodial schools for the rehabilitation and training of delinquent juveniles and youngsters. The Department of Children Services had (nine) 9 such schools in the country, with a capacity of 3,000 children (Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage 1990). Kudrati et al., (2002) discourage these forms of interventions while acknowledging that in order to address the issue of street children effectively, both such long and short-term interventions are necessary. In addition, there should be a focus on preventive (rather than rehabilitative) solutions. For instance, ongoing provision of food, clothes, medicines, and shelter may even help to perpetuate the problem by making street life bearable and intensifying a child's dependence on programs (Volpi, 2002).

Despite their good intentions however, research has suggested that the Committees established are failing to function in a satisfactory manner due to lack of good leadership by the District Commissioners, lack of funds to hold scheduled or necessary meetings, repetitive agendas and lack of clarity of purpose. Other main flaws in these committees were seen to be their quasi-legal status and the absence of a decentralized child

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

care operational budgets at District level (CSC, 2004). In 1998, the Department of Children Services established the Volunteer Children Officers system. The concept was piloted 2004 in seven (7) Districts. The volunteers Children Officers (VCOs) complement the work of children officers by providing supervisory services to children in need of care and protection and those in conflict with the law at the location/village level. The VCOs work under close supervision of the District Children's Officers (DCOs). The VCO system however, has significantly been hampered by lack of funding, inadequate and systematic training to enhance their capacities in service delivery to children.

Under the National Alliance Rainbow Coalition (NARC) government (2003), The Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs had the mandate to coordinate all children services as stipulated in the Children's Act of 2001. The Government also set up the National Council for Children Services to oversee proper planning, financing, coordination and supervision of child welfare activities. Representatives are drawn from relevant government ministries, civil societies, private sector and religious organisations. At the district level these structures are called Area Advisory Councils (AACs). In 2008 the Government reorganized its ministries and the Department of Children Services was moved from Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Home Affairs to Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development (MoGC & SD) now under Ministry of Labour Social Security and Services. The Ministry through the Department of Children Services empowers the vulnerable groups and children in need of care and protection such as street children, orphans, marginalized children, internally displaced children among others

The NARC Government through the Ministry of Local Government embarked on a rehabilitation program for street children in collaboration with the National Youth Services (NYS) to offer trainings, in an effort to provide them with rehabilitation services, non-formal education, vocational skills, reintegration back to formal education and family reintegration. Reception centres were also set up in four (4) provinces including Central, Coast, Rift valley and Nairobi. In the reception centres street children are received, assessed, categorized and given appropriate support and assistance or referred to relevant agencies. In 2003, 6000 ex street children were rehabilitated and enrolled in different primary schools countrywide while 800 other street children acquired vocational skills in various national youth service units countrywide (Awori, 2007).

Under the Kibaki presidency, the Government made great strides in the provisions of supportive services to street children. Various bodies were created and mandated to work with street children in Kenya. In 2003, The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (SFRTF) was established under the Ministry of Local Government now under Ministry of Devolution and Planning through a Gazette Notice No. 1558 of 11th March 2003. The mandate of SFRTF is to coordinate rehabilitation activities for street families in Kenya in partnership with other service providers, educate the public, mobilize resources, manage a fund to support rehabilitation and reintegration activities, and encourage decentralization of activities to County governments to benefit those surviving on streets of Kenya's towns and cities among other functions.

The Street Families Rehabilitation Trust Fund (STRF) rehabilitates and returns street children

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

to their families and supports their re-integration into the community. The Trust has moved from emergency response and immediate basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, health and psychosocial support to long-term programs including support for their education, vocational skills and small scale business for self-reliant. The National Youth Service Act, Chapter 208 provides for the establishment of a National Youth Service (NYS). The functions of the NYS and related matters include training of young citizens to serve the nation and employment of its members in tasks of national importance. Eligibility to the service starts at the age of 16.

Muigai (2003) acknowledges that service opportunities are usually advertised in the daily newspapers where college and university students often apply, but since April 2003, approximately 800 street children from Nairobi and Mombasa had been actively recruited into the NYS to become "useful citizens, like other Kenyans". A joint study, Street Children and Juvenile Justice in Kenya (2004) by CRADLE, Undugu Society of Kenya and Consortium for Street Children (CSC) however, notes that there have been newspaper reports claiming that the first batch of street children graduates from the NYC have simply returned to the streets 'more ruthless and hardened'. If the 'recruitment' was in any way forced, this constitutes a gross violation of the rights of these children.

The National Rainbow Coalition Government also initiated. The Street Children Capacity Building Project which aims at enhancing the capacity of organizations that are addressing the plight of both actual and potential street children in Kenya. The project has been based in Nairobi with a national out-reach, and working in partnership with voluntary organizations and governmental institutions

in key urban centres in different districts, including Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Kitale, Kisumu, Eldoret, Lodwar, Maralal and Marsabit.

Based on the programs' objectives the project developed training modules which address three thematic areas namely: management of street children organizations, Participatory Action Research (PAR), and Paralegal and child Rights. The project has reached a total of eighty-two organizations with various capacity-building activities. The project is based on a community and neighbourhood based model to protect children against violence which signifies a paradigm shift from the rehabilitative programmes that characterised early governmental interventions.

Non-governmental organisations have been identified as the most active around the globe and in Kenya to alleviate the plight of street children. According to the Consortium for Street Children (CSC) it has been difficult to run effective intervention programmes for street children since street children are manifestations of profound social and economic situations that do not respond to quick and easy solutions. Failure has characterised many programmes that have not considered the children's rights, personal needs and freedom of choice in the provision of services and those that have addressed the symptoms rather than the causal factors.

Part of the problem in designing effective interventions is the lack of adequate and reliable information. Current projections of the population of children living and working on the streets of Nairobi and other urban and rural areas are at best "guesstimates". There has hardly been any initiative geared towards collecting and consolidating data on these children. The recent survey, Dagoretti Street

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

Children Programme (2001) Baseline Survey conducted by AMREF is an exception.

SNV/Kenya and the GTZ (2002) note the little data available tends not to be disaggregated, tending to categorise all poor urban children as "street children" and by clustering all poor urban children under the generic descriptor of "street children" distorts reality. In addition, such clustering cloaks the diversity of age, gender, ethnicity, religion and even sub-cultures that characterise children living and working on the streets. Consequently, the programme designer is unable to make any distinctions with regard to the peculiar characteristics and specific needs of the various groups of children thus running the danger of developing inappropriate interventions. This situation, also, prevents the design and implementation of appropriate prevention programmes.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and some International Non-governmental organisations (INGOs) have attempted in their different ways to provide support for street children worldwide. Individual countries have themselves made attempts to tackle the problem locally. The Daily Nation, 15th January 2000, notes that the government has since 1994 participated in workshops to address the plight of street children known as the Forum. The paper further states that the forum was the initiative of the African Network for the Protection and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN). It also aimed at identifying the solutions that would help eradicate the problem of street children.

Although NGOs have been involved in programmes to address the plight of street children; Onyango et al., (1991) note management of most NGO programmes have enjoyed very limited internal public and

government financial support, making them wholly dependent on external public financial support (donations) to finance their operations. This kind of financing is not dependable and complicates planning and implementation.

For instance, UNICEF currently provides financial and technical support to the national NGO Eldoret Street Children Centre (ECCO) to respond to the increasing number of street children in Eldoret town over the last few months as a result of the drought in Northern Kenya. The UNICEF supported program started in August 2011 with the identification and enrolment of street children resulting in 562 children being reached to date with a variety of interventions including psychosocial support, counselling, medical support, recreational activities and reintegration of children with their families (UNICEF, 2011).

Cummings (2008) identifies Sierra Leone as one of the countries and other parts of Africa, where interventions stress both rehabilitation and prevention with a focus on Community-Based Organizations (CBOs); empowered with resources to provide money not directly to the child, but rather support for schooling, training for employment, and recreational activities such as sports, art, and music. The child is largely, nowadays understood as an active agent, one who must be motivated to participate willingly in his own rehabilitation. Attempts, for example, to forcibly relocate street children into "homes" have not worked. Instead, street children overall flee from such institutions, where disciplinary regimes and required labour are emphasized.

The report of the conference on the rehabilitation of street children by Stichting Nederlandse Urijwilligers / Kenya Street Children Programme (SNV- SCP, 2001) reveals that in Nairobi alone, there are more than 250

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

organisations focusing on both actual and potential street children. Dependant on voluntarism and charity (SNV- SCP, 2001), many of these organisations provide similar services, focusing on feeding, vocational training, medical care, shelter, counselling and evangelism (Suda, 1995). The report also identifies major types of interventions according to the children sampled as the provision of food and education as the most common activities of these centres. Other activities that the children expressed awareness of included the distribution of clothes, medical assistance, provision of shelter and to a very small degree, counselling.

SNV/Kenya and GTZ (2002) report that children's perceptions on interventions indicated that education tops the list of benefits that the children said they derived from their involvement in these organisations, followed by food and clothes. Few had benefited from medical assistance or recreational services. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have also undertaken several activities to address violence against children. The categories of such organizations are diverse and include non-governmental organizations, research institutions, FBOs, academic institutions, health institutions and professional associations. They have formulated different activities and initiatives to deal with violence against children. For example those providing rescue, placement and rehabilitation include; Undugu Society of Kenya, Rescue Dada, Goal Kenya, SOS villages, WRAP, Ukweli, Pandpierre Street Children's Program, Sons of Abraham, Solwodi and AIC Girls Kajiado, SDA Kajiado Primary School and in particular deal with providing temporary Shelter, Vocational Skills and Rehabilitation Programs for child commercial sex workers, street children,

rescue of children who are abused or vulnerable to abuse.

Both donors and civil society organizations have shown considerable interest in child rights, child protection issues and children in conflict with the law, From these experiences it would appear that there is adequate funding available to make significant change. However, interventions continue to be somewhat small and 'one-off ', with little emphasis on large-scale coordinated approaches. This may explain why, SNV Kenya and GTZ (2002) discovered that only half of the children they interviewed had some knowledge about various organisations that offer services to street children, and none were aware of any organization working on the issue of juvenile justice.

The Northern Rift Valley Protection Working Group found that at least one third of the children on the streets of Eldoret are coming from Turkana. With 800-1000 street children now on Eldoret streets and admissions in the Children's Remand Home based in Eldoret increasing significantly over the past three months, UNICEF has decided to prioritize child protection activities there. Initially, the Child Protection Centre (CPC) in Eldoret is provided with supplies, social workers and counsellors, and support for logistics. UNICEF also seeks to expand its support to the local NGO, ECCO Street Children, so that they can scale-up services to street children and other vulnerable children. The District Children's Office is also to be supported to play its coordination role. (UNICEF, 2011)

By November 2011, The ECCO street children outreach project in Eldoret had reached 166 street children (116 boys and 50 girls), most of whom were engaged in sports and recreational activities. Ten children received counselling, eight children received medical

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

support, 116 children received psychosocial and material support, and 32 children received life skills training. NGO programs alone are not enough to significantly reduce the number of children in the street, nor are they expected to do so. To accomplish this Volpi (2002) suggests that it would be far more effective for NGOs to network and cooperate among themselves and with local governments if they hope to increase the long-term impact and sustainability of interventions in this area. Schmidt (2003) indicates that policies that attempt to support street children must build on the experiences of the street children themselves and their voices must be listened to and taken into consideration. The aim of the programs is to soften punitive attitudes towards street children and to empower the neglected. However, without involving the street children, there is little likelihood to find lasting solutions

Volpi (2002) acknowledges that a mixture of the different approaches that also helps identify the different roles that the stakeholders can play to have more significant intervention programs to street children. Undugu Society of Kenya is an example of community mobilization efforts through their program established to address the needs of young street workers in Nairobi. Initially, it focused on child rehabilitation, and gradually turned its attention to the communities where children originated, recognizing that it needed to address not only the symptoms but also the root of the problem. The Undugu Society carries out a variety of urban community development projects as well as providing direct services to street and working children.

Research Methodology

The study utilized a descriptive survey research design which targeted street children, social workers from NGO and officers and

from department of Children and Eldoret town. Data was collected using questionnaires for street children, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with three groups of street children and one FGD with social workers and key informant interviews were conducted with children officers and municipal officers. The unit of analysis was a street child. The paper specifically focuses on the challenges faced street children service providers in Eldoret town, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

Findings of the Study

Street Children Access to Services

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the street children revealed that street children are selective of the places that they go to seek services. For instance, one of the children said, "organization X usually has a lot of documentation and paper work involved where they ask us a lot of questions and we have never seen the benefit from the exercise. They often promise us that they will take us to school but negate on their promises. *"They also tell us that we should go to school every day"* (Male street child, 13years). Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) were also involved in providing services to street children. Churches were identified 20.0 % of the study participants and were involved in providing clothing and spiritual guidance to street children.

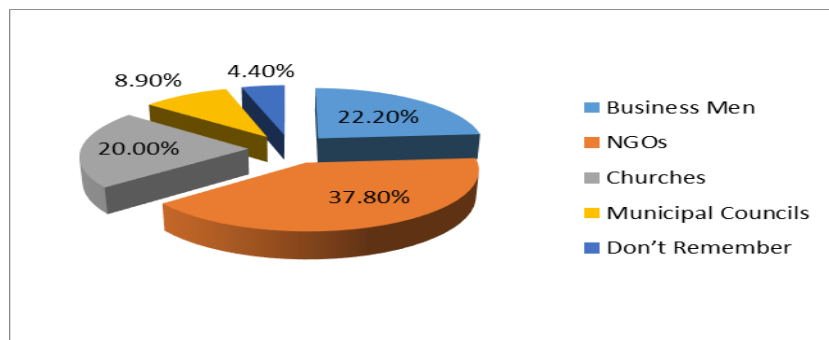
The key informant interviews revealed that most of the service providers' intentions were selfish. For instance, the business community gave street children food that was about to expire or date had already expired such as bread, cakes and milk. Further, individual and groups also masquerade as street children service providers where they source funds from well-wishers and other established NGOs and the community. This has led to children having a negative perception of any

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

assistance that they would otherwise receive from genuine entities. In one of the FGDs with children a discussant said. "They (organisations or individuals) say they have come to help us where

they give us papers (forms) to fill which are long and tedious but we never see the benefit of such efforts" (Male Street Child 14 years).

Figure 7: Service Providers for Street Children



There were several services that were identified by street children in Eldoret town which are shown in Figure 8 below. As indicated majority of the services provided were food related with 34.3 % of the responses showing this. Clothing and food were also observed in the data where 28.2 % study participants indicated this service. The high %ages observed between these two services was due to the *kajumaa* exercise by the Asian business community of distributing food to the street children and clothing which was given by donors and churches.

Counselling and rehabilitation was represented at 7.8 %. This implies that counselling and rehabilitation were not a

priority area. FGDs with the social workers indicated that counselling and rehabilitation was affected by shortage of staff and inadequate technical expertise to undertake the exercise and lack of special facilities to offer counselling services. Provision of livelihood and life skills training were also offered by one of the organisations for older street children. Medical support was represented at 9.4 % which was attributed to the OSCAR project which was located at the Moi Referral and Teaching Hospital. The OSCAR project provides health consultation for disadvantaged children such as street children

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

Figure 8: Services provided to Street Children in Eldoret Town

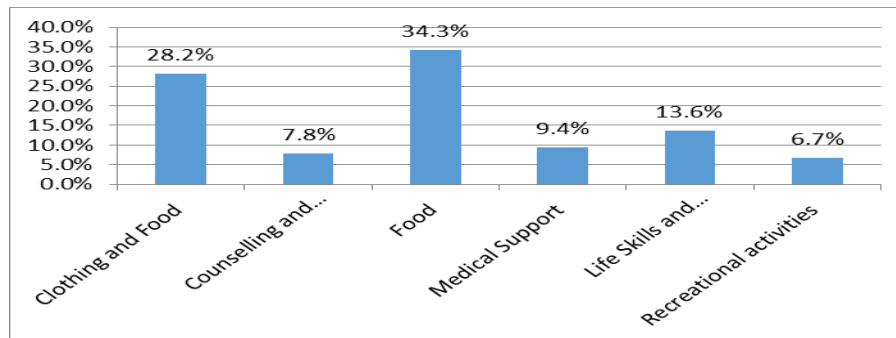


Figure 8 above indicates the services provided to street children. The study, having established that there were services for street children in Eldoret town further sought to find out how frequently street children accessed these services. Those who indicated once in a while accounted for 62.2 %; regularly were 22.2 %, rarely 2.2 % and always 4.4 % as illustrated in Table 4.10. Street children indicated that they used the services once in a while because they had to go to particular organizations which would interfere with their

activities. They would only go if it was really necessary for them for instance, going to the OSCAR project office when they were feeling unwell. The study also sought to establish the services offered to street children in Eldoret town. The study classified services offered according to the non - governmental organisations which were represented by social workers in the Focus group discussion. These services are summarized as illustrated in Appendix 5.

Table 4.11: Frequency of utilizing street children services

Frequency of service	Frequency	%
Once in a while	28	62.2
Regularly	10	22.2
Rarely	1	2.2
Always	2	4.4
Missing Responses	4	8.9
Total	45	100.0

In order to improve the utilization of available services by street children the researcher asked them what improvements they would like to see in their provision. Majority of the study participants indicated that the services should target older children and street mothers and this represented 13.3 %. This implies that older street children felt neglected by the service providers who gave more prominence to

young street children. This is in contrast with the 2.2 % who indicated that these services should target only young children. Among the responses 6.7 % commented that employment opportunities should be factored in the services provided and that these services should be long-term. This shows that street children would want to be more independent and self-reliant in terms of economic empowerment. Further the study findings

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

suggest that services provided for children are dependency.
 not sustainable and only increase their

Table 4.12: Respondents suggestions to improve children services

Suggestions for services provided	Frequency	%
Employment opportunities	3	6.7
They should be long term	3	6.7
Bring services to the streets	2	4.4
Should target older children and street mothers	6	13.3
have one centre for street children to access this services	2	4.4
Should continuously inform children on services offered	4	8.9
Involve us to tell them what we want	2	4.4
They should target only young children	1	2.2
They are accessible	2	4.4
Total	25	55.6

Table 4.12 above indicates the respondent's suggestions to improve children's services. Access to information was also another theme observed in the street children comments where 8.9 % of respondents cited that service providers should continuously inform children on services offered. Further 4.4 % indicated that service provider should consult and involve street children on what services they would want to be provided with. This implies that service providers in Eldoret town use a top – down approach to community development where they identify programs for street children which they deem fit and which may not be readily accepted and utilized by the street children.

The study further sought to identify challenges faced by service providers in their day to day operations to assist street children. These include; Communication-street children are from different ethnic affiliations/communities and as such presented a challenge to service providers in communicating to them. Especially illiterate ones Moreover, there are also children with special needs who are on the street especially those who are deaf or dumb and as such need

special communication which is a challenge to the social workers since they lack expertise in sign language. Children also ask for food in order to give any information during the interviews which Social workers are not able to provide.

Security was also a concern that affected social workers in their day to day work where they could not access all children especially within the barracks for fear of being attacked by hostile street children especially female Social Workers. Finances were also identified as a key constraint in service provision. During the FGDs the researcher found that social workers occasionally had to go out of their way to use their own money in order to assist street children which affected their motivation towards their work. The social workers also indicated that they are poorly remunerated which leads to low motivation given that they handle very difficult children.

Lack of adequate facilities such as in the Children Remand Homes, Rescue Centres, and Charitable Children institutions for safety and rehabilitation of street children. Shortage of social workers was also a constraint identified where an officer would have to do both the

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

office tasks and also undertake fieldwork exercises such as reintegration activities which become tasking thus affecting the morale and performance of their duties of assisting street children.

Lack of capacity and technical expertise to handle many street children who needed counselling and rehabilitation services. Some social workers dealing with street children did not have technical expertise/skills to handle street children issues (the social workers were either less qualified or had trained in a different discipline), thus, became a major impediment in assisting street children. The study established that street children abuse several types of drugs which included, gum, *changa*, *bhanga*, *kuber*, tobacco, D5 and Legatine and become addicted, hence complicating their rehabilitation process. For instance, key informants revealed that children in the Juvenile Remand Home (JRH) lack access to glue, which sometimes would lead to destruction of the mattresses they use and sniff the gum that is used for the manufacture of mattresses as a supplement for glue. For instance, during the FGDs one of the street children was high on "glue" and could not concentrate on during the discussion and would continuously need to be woken up by the other children.

Lack of Comprehensive laws, policies and strategies to address issues of street children. The social workers, during the FGDs, pointed that there are very weak policies and laws which are in place to deal with issues of street

children and that there is no strategy in place for officers to refer to when handling street children. As a result every organization has its own approach and as such this leads to duplication of service and waste of resources.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Study findings show that there were several service providers identified by the street children who included NGOs, FBOs, Business Community and Good Samaritans. However, some of the services provided by the business community and Good Samaritans were identified, by Social Workers, as a factor that led to more children coming to the streets of Eldoret town. Street children revealed that they needed to be more involved in informing service providers on what they would want to be assisted with. It was also clear that street children would want to participate in long-term initiatives which were sustainable and would assist them to be self-reliant in the long-run. For instance, they wanted trainings on how to participate in economic activities so that they could be more self-reliant and disengage from dependency and be out of the streets. The study recommends that a sector-wide training approach for service providers involved in dealing with street children at all levels be developed, by the Government in collaboration with stakeholders to provide standard and holistic services to street children in the country.

References

- Aptekar, L. (2007). *Street Children in the Developing World: A Review of Their Condition*. San Jose State University.
- Ataov, A. and Haider, J. (2006). From participation to empowerment: Critical reflections on a participatory action research project with street children in Turkey. *Children, Youth and Environment*, 16 (2): 127 - 152

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

- Atauz, S. (1990). Ankara ve Şanlıurfa'da Sokak çocukları. Ankara: UNICEF Yayınları.
- Awori, M. A. A. (2007). Statement by his Excellency the Vice president of the Republic of Kenya and Minister of for Home Affairs – Report on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Geneva, Switzerland, 16th January 2007
- Ayaya, S. and Esami, F. O. (2001). Health problems of street children in Eldoret Town. East African Medical Journal. 78: 624 – 629.
- Ayieko, J. S. (2007). Improving non - formal education for street children at rescue centre Eldoret. Second regional research seminar of UNESCO forum for regional scientific for committee Africa. Accra, Ghana
- Ayuku, D. O. (2004). Street Children: Their Social, Physical And Mental Health.(An Intensive Comparative Field Study In Eldoret, Kenya
- Barcelo, Y. J., Masaud, A. and Davies, A. (2011). Meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas: Review of urban humanitarian challenges in Port-Au-Prince, Manila, Nairobi, Eldoret. UN-Habitat
- Bhalla, A. S. and Lapeyre, F. (1999). Poverty and Exclusion in a Global World, London: MacMillan
- Boakye-Boaten, A. (2006). An examination of the street children phenomenon in selected communities in Accra (Ghana). Doctor of Philosophy. College of Education. Ohio University
- Bourdillon, M. F. C. (1992). Poor, Harassed but very much Alive. Gweru Mambo Press. Harare
- Bourdillon, M. F. C. (1994). Street Children in Harare. Africa LXIV 516 - 532
- Bryman, A. (2008). Social Research Methods. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Burgess, J. and Harrison, C. (1988). Exploring environmental values through the medium of small groups. Theory and Practice Environment and Planning 1: A 20, pp. 309-326.
- Campos, R., Raffaelli, M., Ude, W., Greco, M., Ruff, A., Rolf, J., Antunes, C. M., Halsey, N. and Greco, D. (1994). Social networks and daily activities of street youth in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. *Child Development* 65: 319 - 330
- Chesney-Lind, M. (1997). The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime. London: Sage Publications.
- Conticini, A. and Hulme, D. (2006). Escaping Violence, Seeking Freedom: Why Children in Bangladesh Migrate To the Street. Global Poverty Research Group, Working Paper Series: 047
- Consortium for children (2011) Street Children: A Mapping & Gapping Review of the Literature 2000 to 2010. London.
- Commission of Inquiry on Post-Election Violence. (2008). Report on 2007 Post Elections Violence. Nairobi:
- Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2007). Research Methods in Education. 6th ed. London: Routledge.
- CRADLE, (2004). Street Children and Juvenile Justice in Kenya. The Undugu Society of Kenya CSC/Consortium for Street Children 2004.
- Creswell, J. W. (2003). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Available Online at <http://www.oircjournals.org>

Daily Nation, 15th January, 2001. "Growing numbers of street children in Kenya"

Dallape, F. (1987). An experience with street children in Nairobi. Nairobi: Undugu Society Publication.

Dagoretti Street Children Programme (2001) Baseline Survey. AMREF.

Downing-Orr, K. (1999). Alienation and Social Support: A Social Psychological Study of Homeless Young People in London and Sydney. Aldershot: Avebury

Dahrendorf, R. (1959). Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Onyango P. M., Orwa K., Ayako A. A. Ojwang' J. B. and Kariuki W. P. (1991) RESEARCH ON STREET CHILDREN IN KENYA. Urban Poverty Research and Policy Evaluation on Street Children and their Families in Kenya

Schmidt V., A. (2003). French capitalism transformed, yet still a third variety of capitalism Economy and Society Volume 32 Number 4 November 2003: 526-554

Volpi E, "King Badouin Foundation-Soros Foundation Street Children/Children in the Street Program (1998-2000): Achievements and Lesson Learned", The World Bank Institute, unpublished paper, December 2000

UNICEF /Save the Children, (2011). The Chronic Urban emergency in Rift Valley Kenya: A Generation out of Place Report from Profiling Children Connected to the Streets in Rift Valley Province.